

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 32821 091855Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05
USIA-06 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1469
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 32821

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BC, SHUM, UNESCO
SUBJECT: UNESCO: RECOGNIZING POSITIVE HUMAN RIGHTS
BEHAVIOR (BOTSWANA)

REFS: (A) PARIS 31871, (B) STATE 265474,
(C) GABORONE 2458

1. PERMDEL WILL SUPPORT WHATEVER ACTIONS AMEMBASSY
GABORONE AND DEPARTMENT DECIDE TO TAKE IN RECOGNITION
OF BOTSWANA'S POSITIVE HUMAN RIGHTS BEHAVIOR.

2. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE WOULD LIKE TO COME BACK TO
MATTER RAISED REFTEL A, PARA. 3. TO WHAT DEGREE, FOR
EXAMPLE, WOULD IT BE WISE TO BRING WORLD ATTENTION TO
BOTSWANA'S "NON-RACIAL" APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT, AND
ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE? THE EMBASSY, NOT PERMDEL,
IS FULLY APPRAISED OF BOTSWANA'S INTERNAL SITUATION,
AND THEREFORE IN POSITION TO MAKE THIS JUDGMENT.

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3. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, ALSO LIKE TO POSE SOME GENERAL
QUESTION IN UNESCO CONTEXT, NOTING DEPARTMENT'S
QUESTION (REFTEL B, PARA 3) WHETHER GOB MIGHT BE
INTERESTED IN UNESCO MEMBERSHIP. AS PARTICIPATING
MEMBERS OF UN, WE ASSUME THAT GOB IS SUCCESSFULLY
PICKING ITS WAY THROUGH THE POLITICAL PITFALLS AT
UNGA WHICH MIGHT COME TO JEOPARDIZE ITS NON-RACIAL

POLICIES. MEMBERSHIP IN UNESCO MIGHT ONLY COMPOUND THIS BURDEN. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT MUCH OF UNESCO'S CURRENT PROGRAM--AND THAT BEING PREPARED FOR THE 1979-1980 BIENNIIUM--IS HEAVILY WEIGHTED TOWARD ISSUES INVOLVING SOUTHERN AFRICA. EARLY IN 1978, FOR EXAMPLE, A UNESCO SPONSORED INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING WILL AGAIN TAKE UP THE PREPARATION OF A DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE WHICH WILL FOCUS ATTENTION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND COULD POSSIBLY EVEN BECOME INVOLVED WITH UNGA'S RES. 3379 (EQUATING ZIONISM AND RACISM) WHICH CAUSED THE US AND MOST OF THE OTHER WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES TO WALK OUT OF A SIMILAR MEETING IN 1975.

4. CERTAINLY IN THE UNESCO FORUM, PRESSURES ON BOTSWANA TO CONFORM TO OAU POSITIONS ON A RANGE OF EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ISSUES WOULD BE VERY SUBSTANTIAL. NOT TO CONFORM, WE COULD WELL IMAGINE, MIGHT OPEN GOB TO CRITICISM FROM ITS BLACK AFRICAN NEIGHBORS OF "UNCLE TOMISM", OR WORSE, CONTRIBUTE TO THE DESTABILIZATION OF THE NON-RACIAL CHARACTER OF THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ORDER WHICH NOW OBTAINS IN BOTSWANA.

5. PERMDEL DOES NOT PRESUME TO HAVE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED ABOVE, BUT BELIEVES THAT ITS OBSERVATIONS MIGHT BE MATERIAL IN SEEKING WAY TO DEAL
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WITH BISHOP MALLORY'S CONCERNS (REFTEL C).
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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